

**Morning Session**

- I. Federal and State Reimbursement - Pete Biaggio
  - A. Pete discussed the history of the federal government's funding for IDEA. The initial commitment to fund 40% of special education expenditures has never been accomplished. The reimbursement rates have typically been between 13-18%.
  - B. Pete said that ARRA funding has helped district's budgets but future funding declines are expected. Nebraska had a 1.89% decrease in Federal reimbursement in 2011-2012. NDE is preparing for a potential decrease of 7.5%.
- II. IDEA Funding Sources - Pete Biaggio
  - A. Pete recommended claiming excess costs through IDEA (equipment, supplies, staff, etc.). The remaining amount can be submitted through Final Financials.
  - B. Pete also recommended claiming staff to one funding source, if possible. Districts can avoid splitting staff between different funding sources making it easier to complete and submit time and effort logs.
  - C. Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) allocation will be automatically updated in the IDEA Consolidated Application. If a district does not have a CEIS project then the funds can be transferred from 4411- CEIS to 4410-IDEA Enrollment Poverty.
- III. Budget Codes – Pete Biaggio
  - A. 619 Funds (Preschool/Children Ages 3-4) – Districts should use Budget Codes 4406 or 4409. The code for transportation for 619 children is 4407.
  - B. Use budget code 4412 for Non-Public/Proportionate share funds.
  - C. 4411 CEIS (See section II – C) will be automatically updated in the IDEA Consolidated Application. Districts can transfer funds to 4410 Enrollment Poverty if a CEIS project will not be completed in 2011-2012.
- IV. Questions – Pete Biaggio
  - A. **IDEA funds are based on 1997 Census figures. Will current Census numbers be used in the future?**

Pete said this is a federal decision. Requests have been made by state departments and districts to use current Census results. Pete gave examples of districts that have seen tremendous growth, especially in Birth to 5 since 1997.

**B. Pete was asked to review IDEA budget codes.**

1. 4402 - IDEA Part B Transportation - Expenditures financed through IDEA Part B Base Allocation funds received for special education transportation.
2. 4406 - IDEA Preschool (619) Base/IDEA Enrollment Poverty (619) Preschool LEA Flow-through funds received for special education services for children ages three and four only.
3. 4407 – IDEA Preschool (619) Base Allocation Transportation
4. 4409 - IDEA Enrollment/Poverty (619) Expenditures funded through Part B LEA flow-through for special education services for children ages three and four only.
5. IDEA Preschool (619) Base and IDEA Enrollment/Poverty (619) disbursements must be recorded in the following codes: **4406, 4409, or 4407 (Transportation)**

**C. Are carryover funds listed on the IDEA application? Should carry over funds be spent first?**

Yes, carryover funds should be spent first, so the district doesn't lose those funds. Greg Prochazka has sent district totals to Kiley Taylor. The carryover amounts should be listed soon if they are not already on the application.

**D. What is the difference between Flex Funding and CEIS funds?**

Flex Funding is a state funded project. Districts use federal funds for CEIS projects. Flex Funding and CEIS funds can be used together to provide support services for students who have **not** been identified or verified as needing special education or related services but who need additional academic or behavioral support to succeed in the general education curriculum.

**E. In the future, will the application and allocations be available sooner than January/February?**

Getting the website created caused delays, and hopefully the application will be available earlier in the future.

**F. Is there an advantage in spending money in one object code versus another object code?**

No, the advantage of using less object codes is that it is less work. Many districts don't want to expend the IDEA funds for staff salaries and benefits. Districts can also use the funds for services, supplies and equipment. Pete cautioned about using funds for instructional purposes, unless the items will be used specifically for special education students.

**G. Is using IDEA funds first considered Supplanting?**

No, districts are reimbursed approximately 52%. The other 48% can be considered excess cost. Pete said districts could be using the IDEA money

for the same items each year since reimbursement rates will probably remain the same or get lower.

**H. When do you have to complete an Amendment to the grant?**

An amendment must be completed when there is a 20% variance in a category. The process is much simpler and can be completed in the GMS. The district will receive notice from NDE when the amendment is approved.

**Afternoon Session**

- V. PowerPoint – 2012 SPED Consolidated Application – Pete Biaggio
  - A. Pete said the PowerPoint Kiley Taylor and Cathy Von Kaenel presented at the training during the SPED Law Conference would provide users step-by-step directions for completing the SPED IDEA Consolidated Application.
  - B. Pete reviewed some of the slides from the PowerPoint.
    - 1. Page 7 – Users can get activation codes from the superintendent.
    - 2. Page 12 – Application Select page – A checklist for the application is available when you select the “Review Checklist” tab.
    - 3. Page 13-14-15 – The IDEA Consolidated Application contains 5 different grants. Districts will have to complete the program pages for each grant. Page 15 shows how to access each individual grant.
    - 4. Page 16 – Allocations Tab – This page explains how to transfer CEIS funds to 4410 IDEA Enrollment/Poverty.
    - 5. Page 18 – Goals and Needs – The Goals for each grant are included in the description.
- VI. Pete opened a district application and displayed the areas he discussed from the PowerPoint.
- VII. NDE Training Dates – NDE staff will be available to review the application and answer questions. Pete said he believes districts will have completed most of the application and the training days will be used to answer specific questions to help complete the application.
  - January 9 – Kearney (ESU 10)
  - January 20 – Lincoln (State Office Building – Lower Level F)
  - January 26 – Norfolk (Norfolk Public Schools Administrative Building)